

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

KNOLLENBERG, Joseph (Joe) (Republican)
Representative, 9th District, Michigan
Elected 1992 to 103rd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Mattoon, IL – 28 November 1933

Home: Bloomfield Hills, MI

Marital status: Married (Sandra) – 2 sons (Martin, Stephen)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Eastern Illinois University, B.S. in Social Science, 1955

Military: US Army, 1955-57 (corporal)

Profession: Insurance agency owner / broker

Political: Oakland County GOP Party chairman (1978-86). Defeated Walter Briggs (D) with 58% of the vote in the 1992 race to fill the 11th District seat vacated by the retiring Rep William Broomfield (R). Reelected in 2000 with 56% of the vote. In 2002 won 58% of the vote to win the newly drawn 9th District seat that includes only about 40% of his old district.

Rep Knollenberg is a conservative and party loyalist. His views on regulatory, business, trade and environmental matters are consistent with his small business background. His newly drawn district lies in the western Detroit suburbs and is still heavily influenced by auto manufacturers and high-technology companies. Strongly opposed Clinton administration imposed environmental and conservation measures including water saving flush toilets and showerheads, as well as higher fuel efficiency standards for automobiles. Worked to keep the US from agreeing to the Kyoto Protocols on climate change and global warming, suggesting that compliance with the treaty could cost the loss of more than 2 million US jobs. Feels that the Federal tax burden is onerous. Supports legislation requiring immigrants to learn English. Interested in foreign policy, serving on the Baltic Caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, and the Caucus on India and Indian Americans. Unsuccessfully sought the chairmanship of the Appropriations Subc on Energy & Water in both the 106th & 107th Congresses. Prior to the 107th Congress he served on the Budget Committee. In the 106th Congress supported the extension of permanent normal trade relations to China, opposed the US peacekeeping effort in Yugoslavia suggesting that it was diverting over-extended troops from strategically important areas, and supported the deployment of a national missile defense system. In the 107th Congress opposed Eximbank foreign aid to North Korea, supported the energy policy bill and efforts to reduce US dependence on foreign oil, supported nuclear energy research, and supported granting trade promotion authority to the president. At the beginning of the 107th he became one of the so-called “cardinals” by becoming the chairman of the Appropriations Subc on the District of Columbia. Supported the homeland security legislation, particularly provisions to improve security on the US-Canadian border.

At the beginning of the 108th Congress became the chairman of the HAC Milcon Subc.

Additional Background: One of his sons is gay. (CQ Profile)

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS – Subc on Military Construction – Chairman; Foreign Operations; Veterans Affairs, HUD and Independent Agencies